

Azerbaijani language

Azerbaijani (/ˌæzəˈbaɪˈdʒɑːni/) or **Azeri** (/æˈzɛəri, ɑː-, ə-/), also referred to as **Azeri Turkic**^[7] or **Azeri Turkish**,^{[8][9]} is a Turkic language spoken primarily by the Azerbaijani people, who live mainly in the Republic of Azerbaijan (former Soviet) where the North Azerbaijani variety is spoken, and in the Azerbaijan region of Iran, where the South Azerbaijani variety is spoken.^[10] Although there is a very high degree of mutual intelligibility between both forms of Azerbaijani, there are some significant differences in phonology, lexicon, morphology, syntax and sources of loanwords.^[2]

North Azerbaijani has official status in the Republic of Azerbaijan and Dagestan (a federal subject of Russia) but South Azerbaijani does not have official status in Iran, where the majority of Azerbaijani people live. It is also spoken to lesser varying degrees in Azerbaijani communities of Georgia and Turkey and by diaspora communities, primarily in Europe and North America.

Both Azerbaijani varieties are members of the Oghuz branch of the Turkic languages. The standardized form of North Azerbaijani (spoken in the Republic of Azerbaijan and Russia) is based on the Shirvani dialect, while Iranian Azerbaijani uses the Tabrizi dialect as its prestige variety. Azerbaijani is closely related to Gagauz, Qashqai, Crimean Tatar, Turkish and Turkmen, sharing varying degrees of mutual intelligibility with each of those languages.^[11] According to linguistic comparative studies, the closest relative of Azerbaijani is the Turkmen language.^[12]

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Azerbaijani	
<i>Azərbaycan dili</i> , آذربایجان دیلی , Азәрбајҹан дили ^[note 1]	
Pronunciation	[ɑːzæɾbɑjˈdʒɑn diˈli]
Native to	National: <div>Azerbaijan</div> Regional: <div>Iran</div> <div>Russia</div> Minorities: <div>Turkey · Iraq · Georgia</div>
Region	Azerbaijan (historic Azerbaijan) and Caucasus
Ethnicity	Azerbaijanis
Native speakers	23 million (2018) ^[1]
Language family	Turkic <div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Common Turkic <ul style="list-style-type: none">Oghuz <ul style="list-style-type: none">Western Oghuz <ul style="list-style-type: none">Azerbaijani </div>
Standard forms	Shirvani (In Azerbaijan Republic) <p>Tabrizi (In Iranian Azerbaijan region)</p>
Dialects	Afshar <p>Salchuq (extinct)</p> <p>Sonqori</p>
Writing system	<ul style="list-style-type: none">In Azerbaijan: Latin script^[2] (Azerbaijani alphabet) In Iran: Perso-Arabic script^[3] (Persian alphabet)

<div>Consonants</div> <div>Dialect consonants</div> <div>Vowels</div> <div>Writing systems</div> <div>Vocabulary</div> <div>Interjections</div> <div>Formal and informal</div> <div>Numbers</div> <div>See also</div> <div>Notes</div> <div>References</div> <div>Bibliography</div> <div>External links</div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Russia: Cyrillic^[2] In Georgia: Georgian script (very rare, only used in the Azerbaijani poems of Sayat-Nova, an Armenian poet)
	<div>Official status</div> <div> <div>Official language in</div> <div> <div> Azerbaijan</div> <div> Russia</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dagestan </div> <div>Organisations:</div> <div> Turkic Council</div> </div>
	<div>Regulated by</div> <div> <div>Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences (North Azerbaijani)</div> <div>No regulatory body (South Azerbaijani)</div> </div>
	<div>Language codes</div> <div> <div>ISO 639-1</div> <div>az (https://www.iso.org/standards/iso639-2/php/langcodes_name.php?iso_639_1=az)</div> </div> <div> <div>ISO 639-2</div> <div>aze (https://www.loc.gov/standards/iso639-2/php/langcodes_name.php?code_ID=39)</div> </div> <div> <div>ISO 639-3</div> <div> <div>aze – inclusive code</div> <div>Individual codes:</div> <div>azj – North Azerbaijani</div> <div>azb – South Azerbaijani</div> <div>slq – Salchuq</div> <div>qxq – Qashqai</div> </div> </div>
	<div>Glottolog</div> <div> <div>mode1262 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/mode1262)</div> <div>Modern Azeric^[4]</div> <div>nort2697 (http://</div> </div>

Etymology and background

Historically the language was referred by its native speakers as *Türki*^[13] meaning "Turkic" or *Azərbaycan türkcəsi* meaning "Azerbaijani Turkic". Prior to the establishment of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, who adopted the name of "Azerbaijan" for political reasons in 1918, the name of "Azerbaijan" was exclusively used to identify the adjacent region of contemporary northwestern Iran.^{[14][15][16]} After the establishment of the Azerbaijan SSR,^[17] on the order of Soviet leader Stalin, the "name of the formal language" of the Azerbaijan SSR was "changed from Turkic to Azerbaijani".^[17]

History and evolution

Azerbaijani evolved from the Eastern branch of Oghuz Turkic ("Western Turkic")^[19] which spread to the Caucasus, in Eastern Europe,^{[20][21]} and northern Iran, in Western Asia, during the medieval Turkic migrations.^[22] Persian and Arabic influenced the language, but Arabic words were mainly transmitted through the intermediary of literary Persian.^[23] Azerbaijani is, perhaps after Uzbek, the Turkic language upon which Persian and other Iranian languages have exerted the strongest impact—mainly in phonology, syntax, and vocabulary, less in morphology.^[24]

The Turkic language of Azerbaijan gradually supplanted the Iranian languages in what is now northern Iran, and a variety of languages of the Caucasus and Iranian languages spoken in the Caucasus, particularly Udi and Old Azeri. By the beginning of the 16th century, it had become the dominant language of the region, and was a spoken language in the court



Garden of Pleasures by Fuzûlî in Azerbaijani.^[18]

of the Safavids and Afsharids.

glottolog.org/resource/language/id/nort2697)
North Azerbaijani^[5]
sout2697 (<http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/sout2697>)
South Azerbaijani^[6]

Linguasphere

part of 44-AAB-a



Location of Azerbaijani speakers in Transcaucasia

- ☐ regions where Azerbaijani is the language of the majority
- ☐ regions where Azerbaijani is the language of a significant minority

The historical development of Azerbaijani can be divided into two major periods: early (c. 16th to 18th century) and modern (18th century to present). Early Azerbaijani differs from its descendant in that it contained a much larger number of Persian, and Arabic loanwords, phrases and syntactic elements. Early writings in Azerbaijani also demonstrate linguistic interchangeability between Oghuz and Kypchak elements in many aspects (such as pronouns, case endings, participles, etc.).


As Azerbaijani gradually moved from being merely a language of epic and lyric poetry to being also a language of journalism and scientific research, its literary version has become more or less unified and simplified with the loss of many archaic Turkic elements, stilted Iranisms and Ottomanisms, and other words, expressions, and rules that failed to gain popularity among the Azerbaijani masses.

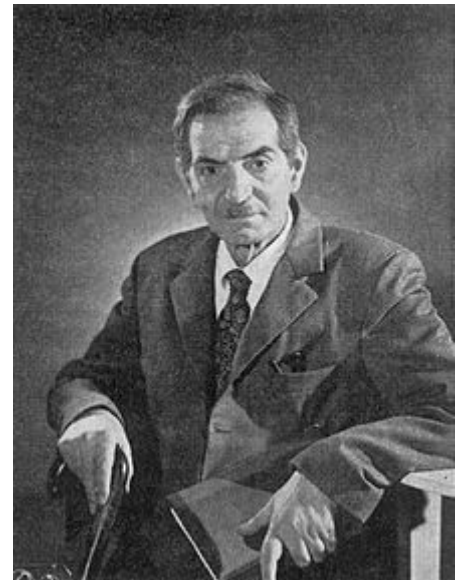
Between c. 1900 and 1930, there were several competing approaches to the unification of the national language in what is now the Azerbaijan Republic, popularized by the scholars such as Hasan bey Zardabi and Mammad agha Shahtakhtinski. Despite major differences, they all aimed primarily at making it easy for semi-literate masses to read and understand literature. They all criticized the overuse of Persian, Arabic, and European elements in both colloquial and literary language and called for a simpler and more popular style.

The Russian conquest of Transcaucasia in the 19th century split the language community across two states; the Soviet Union promoted the development of the language, but set it back considerably with two successive script changes^[25] – from the Persian to Latin and then to the Cyrillic script – while Iranian Azerbaijanis continued to use the Persian script as they always had. Despite the wide use of Azerbaijani in the Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic, it became the official language of Azerbaijan only in 1956.^[26] After independence, the Azerbaijan Republic decided to switch back to a modified Latin script.

Azerbaijani literature

The development of Azerbaijani literature is closely associated with Anatolian Turkish, written in Perso-Arabic script. Examples of its detachment date to the 14th century or earlier.^{[27][28]} Kadi Burhan al-Din, Hesenoghlu, and Imadaddin Nasimi helped to establish Azerbaijani as a literary language in the 14th century through poetry and other works.^[28] The ruler and poet Ismail I wrote under the pen name *Khatā'ī* (which means "sinner" in Persian) during the fifteenth century.^{[29][30]} During the 16th century, the poet, writer and thinker Fuzûlî wrote mainly in Azerbaijani but also translated his poems into Arabic and Persian.^[29]

Starting in the 1830s, several newspapers were published in Iran during the reign of the Azerbaijani speaking Qajar dynasty but it is unknown whether any of these newspapers were written in Azerbaijani. In 1875 *Akinchi* (*Əkinçi* / ) ("The Ploughman") became the first Azerbaijani newspaper to be published in the Russian Empire. It was started by Hasan bey Zardabi, a journalist and education advocate.^[28] Following the rule of the Qajar dynasty, Iran was ruled by Reza Shah who banned the publication of texts in Azerbaijani. Modern literature in the Republic of Azerbaijan is based on the Shirvani dialect mainly, while in Iranian Azerbaijan it is based on the Tabrizi dialect.



Mohammad-Hossein Shahriar, Iranian Azerbaijani poet, who wrote in Azerbaijani and Persian.

Mohammad-Hossein Shahriar is an important figure in Azerbaijani poetry. His most important work is *Heydar Babaya Salam* and it is considered to be a pinnacle of Azerbaijani literature and gained popularity in the Turkic-speaking world. It was translated into more than 30 languages.^[31]

In the mid-19th century, Azerbaijani literature was taught at schools in Baku, Ganja, Shaki, Tbilisi, and Yerevan. Since 1845, it has also been taught in the Saint Petersburg State University in Russia. In 2018, Azerbaijani language and literature programs are offered in the United States at several universities, including: Indiana University, UCLA, and University of Texas at Austin.^[28] The vast majority, if not all Azerbaijani language courses teach North Azerbaijani written in the Latin script and not South Azerbaijani written in the Perso-Arabic script.

Modern literature in the Republic of Azerbaijan is primarily based on the Shirvani dialect, while in the Iranian Azerbaijan region (historic Azerbaijan) it is based on the Tabrizi one.

Lingua franca

Azerbaijani served as a *lingua franca* throughout most parts of Transcaucasia except the Black Sea coast, in southern Dagestan,^{[32][33][34]} the Eastern Anatolia Region and Iranian Azerbaijan from the 16th to the early 20th centuries,^{[35][36]} alongside the cultural, administrative, court literature, and most importantly official language of all these regions, namely Persian.^[37] From the early 16th century up to the course of the 19th century, these regions and territories were all ruled by the Safavids, Afsharids and Qajars until the cession of Transcaucasia proper and Dagestan by Qajar Iran to the Russian Empire per the 1813 Treaty of Gulistan and the 1828 Treaty of Turkmenchay. Per the 1829 Caucasus School Statute, Azerbaijani was to be taught in all district schools of Ganja, Shusha, Nukha (present-day Shaki), Shamakhi, Quba, Baku, Derbent, Yerevan, Nakhchivan, Akhalsikhe, and Lankaran.



Azerbaijani-language road sign.

Beginning in 1834, it was introduced as a language of study in Kutaisi instead of Armenian. In 1853, Azerbaijani became a compulsory language for students of all backgrounds in all of Transcaucasia with the exception of the Tiflis Governorate.^[38]

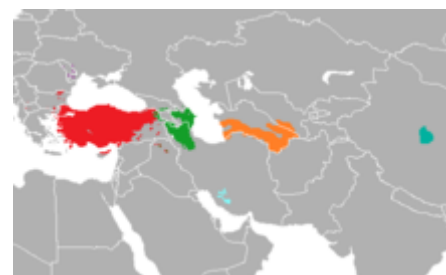
North vs. South Azerbaijani

Azerbaijani is one of the Oghuz languages within the Turkic language family. *Ethnologue* classifies North Azerbaijani (spoken mainly in the Republic of Azerbaijan and Russia) and South Azerbaijani (spoken in Iran, Iraq, and Syria) as separate languages with "significant differences in phonology, lexicon, morphology, syntax, and loanwords."^[2]

Svante Cornell wrote in his 2001 book *Small Nations and Great Powers* that "it is certain that Russian and Iranian words (sic), respectively, have entered the vocabulary on either side of the Araxes river, but this has not occurred to an extent that it could pose difficulties for communication."^[39] There are numerous dialects, with 21 North Azerbaijani dialects and 11 South Azerbaijani dialects identified by *Ethnologue*.^{[2][3]}

Four varieties have been accorded ISO 639-3 language codes: North Azerbaijani, South Azerbaijani, Salchuq, and Qashqai. The *Glottolog* 4.1 database classifies North Azerbaijani, with 20 dialects, and South Azerbaijani, with 13 dialects, under the Modern Azeric family, a branch of Central Oghuz.^[4]

According to the Linguasphere Observatory, all Oghuz languages form part of a single "outer language" of which North and South Azerbaijani are "inner languages".

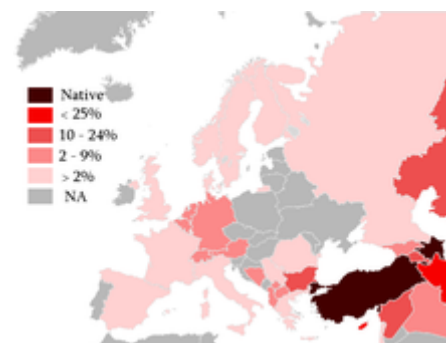


Turkish, Azerbaijani, and Turkmen are Oghuz languages

North Azerbaijani

North Azerbaijani,^[2] or Northern Azerbaijani, is the official language of the Republic of Azerbaijan. It is closely related to the modern-day Istanbul Turkish, the official language of Turkey. It is also spoken in southern Dagestan, along the Caspian coast in the southern Caucasus Mountains and in scattered regions throughout Central Asia. As of 2011, there are some 9.23 million speakers of North Azerbaijani including 4 million monolingual speakers (many North Azerbaijani speakers also speak Russian, as is common throughout former USSR countries).^[2]

The Shirvan dialect as spoken in Baku is the basis of standard Azerbaijani. Since 1992, it has been officially written with a Latin script in the Republic of Azerbaijan, but the older Cyrillic script was still widely used in the late 1990s.^[40]



Knowledge of either of the two major Western Oghuz languages, Turkish or Azerbaijani in Europe

Ethnologue lists 21 North Azerbaijani dialects: Quba, Derbend, Baku, Shamakhi, Salyan, Lenkaran, Qazakh, Airym, Borcala, Terekeme, Qzyylbash, Nukha, Zaqatala (Mugaly), Qabala, Yerevan, Nakhchivan, Ordubad, Ganja, Shusha (Karabakh), Karapapak.^[2]

South Azerbaijani

South Azerbaijani,^[3] is widely spoken in Iranian Azerbaijan (historic Azerbaijan) and, to a lesser extent, in neighboring regions of Turkey and Iraq, with smaller communities in Syria. In Iran, the Persian word for Azerbaijani is borrowed as *Torki* "Turkic".^[3] In Iran, it is spoken mainly in East Azerbaijan, West Azerbaijan, Ardabil and Zanjan. It is also widely spoken in Tehran and across Tehran Province, as Azerbaijanis form by far the largest minority in the city and the wider province,^[41] comprising about 1/3,^{[42][43]} of its total population. The CIA World Factbook reports in 2010 the percentage of Iranian Azerbaijani speakers at around 16 percent of the Iranian population, or approximately 13 million people worldwide,^[44] and ethnic Azeris form by far the second largest ethnic group of Iran, thus making the language also the second most spoken language in the nation.^[45] Ethnologue reports 10.9 million Iranian Azerbaijani in Iran in 2016 and 13,823,350 worldwide.^[3] Dialects of South Azerbaijani include: Aynallu (Inallu, Inanlu), Qarapapaq, Tabrizi, Qashqai, Afshari (Afsar, Afshar), Shahsavani (Shahseven), Muqaddam, Baharlu (Kamesh), Nafar, Qaragözlü, Pishaqchi, Bayatlu, Qajar, Marandli.^[3]

Azerbaijani vs. Turkish

Historically, Azerbaijani and Turkish speakers have been able to communicate with relative ease. One example of this is when Reza Shah Pahlavi of Iran (who spoke Azerbaijani) met with Mustafa Kemal Atatürk of Turkey (who spoke Turkish) in 1934.^{[46][47][48][49][50][51]} Speakers of Turkish and Azerbaijani can, to an extent, communicate with each other as both languages have substantial variation and are to a degree mutually intelligible. Azerbaijani exhibits a similar stress pattern to Turkish but simpler in some respects. Azerbaijani is a strongly stressed and partially stress-timed language, unlike Turkish which is weakly stressed and syllable-timed.



Reza Shah and Atatürk in Turkey.

Here are some words with a different pronunciation in Azerbaijani and Turkish that mean the same in both languages:

Azerbaijani	Turkish	English
<i>ayaqqabı</i>	<i>ayakkabı</i>	shoes
<i>ayaq</i>	<i>ayak</i>	foot
<i>kitab</i>	<i>kitap</i>	book
<i>qardaş</i>	<i>kardeş</i>	brother
<i>qan</i>	<i>kan</i>	blood
<i>qaz</i>	<i>kaz</i>	goose
<i>qaş</i>	<i>kaş</i>	eyebrow
<i>qar</i>	<i>kar</i>	snow
<i>daş</i>	<i>taş</i>	stone

Phonology

Phonotactics

Azerbaijani phonotactics is similar to other Oghuz Turkic languages, except:

- Trimoraic syllables with long vowels are permissible.
- There is an ongoing metathesis of neighboring consonants in a word.^[52] Speakers tend to reorder consonants in the order of decreasing sonorancy and back-to-front (for example, *iləri* becomes *irəli*, *köprü* becomes *körpü*, *topraq* becomes *torpaq*). Some of the metatheses are so common in the educated speech that they are reflected in orthography (all the above examples are like that). This phenomenon is more common in rural dialects, but observed even in educated young urban speakers.
- Intramorpheme /q/ becomes /x/.

Consonants

Consonant phonemes of Standard Azerbaijani

	<u>Labial</u>	<u>Dental</u>	<u>Alveolar</u>	<u>Palato-alveolar</u>	<u>Palatal</u>	<u>Velar</u>	<u>Glottal</u>
<u>Nasal</u>	<u>m</u>		<u>n</u>				
<u>Stop</u>	<u>p</u> <u>b</u>	<u>t</u> <u>d</u>		<u>t͡ʃ</u> <u>d͡ʒ</u>	<u>c</u> (<u>ɟ</u>)	(<u>k</u>) <u>g</u>	
<u>Fricative</u>	<u>f</u> <u>v</u>	<u>s</u> <u>z</u>		<u>ʃ</u> <u>ʒ</u>		<u>x</u> <u>ɣ</u>	<u>h</u>
<u>Approximant</u>			<u>l</u>		<u>j</u>		
<u>Flap</u>			<u>ɾ</u>				

1. as in Turkish, in native words the velar consonant /g/ is palatalized to [ɟ] when adjacent to the front vowels, but unlike Turkish, Azerbaijani at different periods have been written using Arabic, Roman and Cyrillic letters and in each case the two allophones of /g/ had their own letter.^[53] ق, q, r for [g] and گ, g, k for [ɟ].
2. The sound [k] is used only in loanwords; the historical unpalatalized [k] became voiced to [g].
3. /t͡ʃ/ and /d͡ʒ/ are realised as [t͡ʃs] and [d͡ʒz] respectively in the areas around Tabriz and to the west, south and southwest of Tabriz (including Kirkuk in Iraq); in the Nakhchivan and Ayrum dialects, in Cəbrayıl and some Caspian coastal dialects;^[54]
4. In most dialects of Azerbaijani, /c/ is realized as [ç] when it is found in the syllabic coda or is preceded by a voiceless consonant (as in *çörək* [t͡ʃøʳ ɾæç] – "bread"; *səksən* [sæç ʰsæn] – "eighty").
5. /w/ exists in the Kirkuk dialect as an allophone of /v/ in Arabic loanwords.
6. In the Baku subdialect, /ov/ may be realised as [oʊ], and /ev/ and /øv/ as [øʏ], e.g. /govur ʰmə/ → [goʊr ʰmə], /sev ʰdə/ → [søʏ ʰdə], /døv ʰran/ → [døʏ ʰran], as well as with surnames ending in -ov or -ev (borrowed from Russian).^[55]
7. In colloquial speech, /x/ is usually pronounced as [χ]

Dialect consonants

- Dz dz—[d͡ʒ]
- Ć ć—[t͡ʃs]
- Ŋ ŋ—[ŋ]
- Ğ ğ—[g]

- Ð ð—[ð]
- W w—[w/ʏ]

Examples:

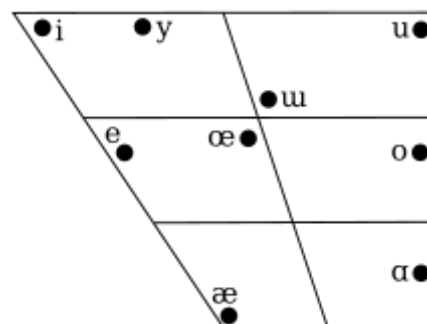
- [d͡z̞]—dzan [d͡z̞ɑn]
- [t͡s̞]—cay [t͡s̞aj]
- [ɲ]—ataɲın [ʔɑt͡ɬɑɲəɲ]
- [ɣ]—qar [ɣɑr]
- [ð̞]—əðəli [ʔæð̞æ̞l̞ɪ]
- [w]—dowşan [d̞ɔːwʃɑn]
- [ʏ]—töwlə [t͡ɬæːʏl̞æ̞]

Vowels

The vowels of the Azerbaijani are, in alphabetical order,^{[56][57]} *a* /ɑ/, *e* /e/, *ə* /æ/, *ı* /ɯ/, *i* /i/, *o* /o/, *ö* /ø/, *u* /u/, *ü* /y/. There are no diphthongs in standard Azerbaijani when two vowels come together; when that occurs in some Arabic loanwords, diphthong is removed by either syllable separation at V.V boundary or fixing the pair as VC/CV pair, depending on the word.

Vowels of Standard Azerbaijani

	Front		Back	
	Unrounded	Rounded	Unrounded	Rounded
Close	<u>i</u>	<u>y</u>	<u>ɯ</u>	<u>u</u>
Mid	<u>e</u>	<u>ø</u>		<u>o</u>
Open	<u>æ</u>		<u>ɑ</u>	



The typical phonetic quality of South Azerbaijani vowels is as follows:

South Azerbaijani vowel chart, from Mokari & Werner (2016:509)

- /i, u, æ/ are close to cardinal [i, u, æ].^[58]
- The F1 and F2 formant frequencies overlap for /æ/ and /ɯ/. Their acoustic quality is more or less close-mid central [ə, ə]. The main role in the distinction of two vowels is played by the different F3 frequencies in audition^[59] and rounding in articulation. Phonologically, however, they are more distinct: /æ/ is phonologically a mid front rounded vowel, the front counterpart of /o/ and the rounded counterpart of /e/. /ɯ/ is phonologically a close back unrounded vowel, the back counterpart of /i/ and the unrounded counterpart of /u/.
- The other mid vowels /e, o/ are closer to close-mid [e, o] than open-mid [ɛ, ɔ].^[58]
- /ɑ/ is phonetically near-open back [ɑ].^[58]

Writing systems

Before 1929, Azerbaijani was written only in the Perso-Arabic alphabet. In 1929–1938 a Latin alphabet was in use for North Azerbaijani (although it was different from the one used now), from 1938 to 1991 the Cyrillic script was used, and in 1991 the current Latin alphabet was introduced, although the transition to it has been rather slow.^[60] For instance, until an Aliyev decree on the matter in 2001,^[61] newspapers would routinely write headlines in the Latin script, leaving the stories in Cyrillic;^[62] the transition also resulted in some misrendering of İ as ı.^{[63][64]}

In Iran, Azerbaijani is still written in the Persian alphabet, and in Dagestan, in Cyrillic script.

The Perso-Arabic Azerbaijani alphabet is an abjad; that is, it does not represent vowels. Also, some consonants can be represented by more than one letter. The Azerbaijani Latin alphabet is based on the Turkish Latin alphabet, which in turn was based on former Azerbaijani Latin alphabet because of their linguistic connections and mutual intelligibility. The letters Əə, Xx, and Qq are available only in Azerbaijani for sounds which do not exist as separate phonemes in Turkish.

Old Latin (1929-1938 version; no longer in use; replaced by 1991 version)	Official Latin (Azerbaijan since 1991)	Cyrillic (1958 version, still official in Dagestan)	Perso-Arabic (Iran; Azerbaijan until 1929)	IPA
A a		A a	ا, آ	/ɑ/
B b	B b	Б б	ب	/b/
Ç ç	C c	Ч ч	ج	/dʒ/
C c	Ç ç	Ч ч	چ	/tʃ/
D d		Д д	د	/d/
E e		Е е	ئ	/e/
Ə ə		Ә ә	ه, ا, آ	/æ/
F f		Ф ф	ف	/f/
G g		К к	گ	/ɟ/
Ŋ ŋ	Ğ ğ	Ғ ғ	غ	/ɣ/
H h		Һ һ	ه, ح	/h/
X x		Х х	خ	/x/
Ь ь	І і	Ы ы	□□	/ɯ/
I i	İ i	И и	ی	/i/
Ž ž	J j	Ж ж	ژ	/ʒ/
K k		К к	ک	/c/, /k/
Q q		Г г	ق	/g/
L l		Л л	ل	/l/
M m		М м	م	/m/
N n		Н н	ن	/n/
Ŋ ŋ ^[65]	Ng ng	Нк нк	نگ, نگ ^[66]	/ŋ/
O o		О о	و	/o/
Ө ө	Ö ö	Ө ө		/ø/

			ؤ	
P p		П п	پ	/p/
R r		P p	ر	/r/
S s		C c	ث / س / ص	/s/
Ş ş		Ш ш	ش	/ʃ/
T t		Т т	ت / ط	/t/
U u		У у	ۇ	/u/
Y y	Ü ü	Ү ү	ۆ	/y/
V v		B b	و	/v/
J j	Ү ү	J j	ی	/j/
Z z		З з	ذ / ز / ض / ظ	/z/
-		'	ع	/ʔ/

Northern Azerbaijani, unlike Turkish, respells foreign names to conform with Latin Azerbaijani spelling, e.g. Bush is spelled *Buş* and Schröder becomes *Şröder*. Hyphenation across lines directly corresponds to spoken syllables as in other Turkic languages.

Vocabulary

Interjections

Some samples include:

Secular:

- *Of* ("Ugh!")
- *Tez Ol* ("Be quick!")
- *Tez olun qızlar mədrəsəyə* ("Be quick girls, to school!", a slogan for an education campaign in Azerbaijan)

Invoking deity:

- implicitly:
 - *Aman* ("Mercy")
 - *Çox şükür* ("Much thanks")
- explicitly:

- *Allah Allah* (pronounced as *Allahallah*) ("Goodness gracious")
- *Hay Allah; Vallah* "By God [I swear it]".
- *Çox şükür allahım* ("Much thanks my god")

Formal and informal

Azerbaijani has informal and formal ways of saying things. This is because there is a strong tu-vous distinction in Turkic languages like Azerbaijani and Turkish (as well as in many other languages). The informal "you" is used when talking to close friends, relatives, animals or children. The formal "you" is used when talking to someone who is older than you or someone for whom you would like to show respect (a professor, for example).

As in many Turkic languages, personal pronouns can be omitted, and they are only added for emphasis. Azerbaijani has a phonetic writing system, so pronunciation is easy: most words are pronounced exactly as they are spelled in the modern Azerbaijani alphabet.

Category	English	North Azerbaijani (in <u>Latin</u> script)
Basic expressions	yes	<i>hə /hæ/</i> (informal), <i>bəli</i> (formal)
	no	<i>yox /jox/</i> (informal), <i>xeyr</i> (formal)
	hello	<i>salam /salam/</i>
	goodbye	<i>sağ ol / 'saɣ ol/</i>
		<i>sağ olun / 'saɣ olun/</i> (formal)
	good morning	<i>sabahınız xeyir /sabahw(nw)z xejiɾ/</i>
	good afternoon	<i>günortanız xeyir /ɟynoɾt(w)nɯz xejiɾ/</i>
	good evening	<i>axşamın xeyir /axʃamwɯn xejiɾ/</i>
		<i>axşamınız xeyir /axʃamw(nw)z xejiɾ/</i>
Colours	black	<i>qara /gɑɾɑ/</i>
	blue	<i>mavi /mâvi/</i>
	brown	<i>qəhvəyi / qonur</i>
	grey	<i>boz /boz/</i>
	green	<i>yaşıl /jaʃwɯl/</i>
	orange	<i>narıncı /nɑɾwɯndʒwɯ/</i>
	pink	<i>çəhrayı</i>
	purple	<i>bənövşəyi</i>
	red	<i>qırmızı /gʷɾmɯzwɯ/</i>
	white	<i>ağ /ɑɣ/</i>
	yellow	<i>sarı /sɑɾwɯ/</i>

Numbers

Number	Word
0	<i>sıfır</i> / ˈ <i>swfʊr</i> /
1	<i>bir</i> / <i>bir</i> /
2	<i>iki</i> / <i>ici</i> /
3	<i>üç</i> / <i>yɯʧ</i> /
4	<i>dörd</i> / <i>dørd</i> /
5	<i>beş</i> / <i>beʃ</i> /
6	<i>altı</i> / <i>altʷ</i> /
7	<i>yeddi</i> / <i>jed:i</i> /
8	<i>səkkiz</i> / <i>sækciz</i> /
9	<i>doqquz</i> / <i>dog:uz</i> /
10	<i>on</i> / <i>on</i> /

For numbers 11–19, the numbers literally mean "10 one, 10 two" and so on.

Number	Word
20	<i>iyirmi</i> / <i>iʝi r mi</i> / ^[a]
30	<i>otuz</i> / <i>otuz</i> /
40	<i>qırx</i> / <i>gʊrx</i> /
50	<i>əlli</i> / <i>ælli</i> /

Greater numbers are constructed by combining in tens and thousands larger to smaller in the same way, without using a conjunction in between.

See also

- Historical linguistics
- Language family
- Turkic languages

Notes

- Former Cyrillic spelling used in the Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic.

a. /i r mi/ is also found in standard speech.

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External links

- A blog on Azerbaijani language resources and translations (<http://www.learnazeri.blogspot.com/>)
- (in Russian) A blog about the Azerbaijani language and lessons (<http://www.azyaz.ru/>)
- [azeri.org](http://www.azeri.org/) (<http://www.azeri.org/>), Azerbaijani literature and English translations.
- Online bidirectional Azerbaijani-English Dictionary (<http://azerdict.com/>)

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- [Pre-Islamic roots \(https://web.archive.org/web/20060209020322/http://www.masterliness.com/a/Azerbaijanis.htm\)](https://web.archive.org/web/20060209020322/http://www.masterliness.com/a/Azerbaijanis.htm)
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 - [Chart: Four Alphabet Changes in Azerbaijan in the 20th century \(http://azer.com/aiweb/categories/magazine/81_folder/81_articles/81_alphabet_changes1.html\)](http://azer.com/aiweb/categories/magazine/81_folder/81_articles/81_alphabet_changes1.html)
 - [Chart: Changes in the Four Azerbaijan Alphabet Sequence in the 20th century \(http://azer.com/aiweb/categories/magazine/81_folder/81_articles/81_alphabet_sequence1.html\)](http://azer.com/aiweb/categories/magazine/81_folder/81_articles/81_alphabet_sequence1.html)
 - [Baku's Institute of Manuscripts: Early Alphabets in Azerbaijan \(http://azer.com/aiweb/categories/magazine/81_folder/81_articles/81_manuscripts.html\)](http://azer.com/aiweb/categories/magazine/81_folder/81_articles/81_manuscripts.html)

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